CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA ON 29 MAY 1998 CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR TESTS CONDUCTED RECENTLY BY PAKISTAN

I have the honour to transmit to you a Press Release issued by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on 29 May 1998 concerning the nuclear tests recently conducted by the Government of Pakistan.

I would be most grateful if you could make the necessary arrangements for its distribution as an official document to all members and participating delegations of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Agus Tarmidzi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.98-62283

No. : 24/PR/V98

PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY H.E. ALI ALATAS, FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDONESIA, CONCERNING PAKISTANI NUCLEAR TESTS

As in the case of the nuclear tests recently carried out by India, Indonesia cannot, as a party to the Non-Proliferation treaty and a signatory of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, condone the carrying out of nuclear weapons tests by any country at any time, including those conducted by Pakistan recently.

The series of nuclear tests conducted in the Asian sub-continent have inevitably increased tensions in the region, triggering a new arms race and keeping us away from the objectives of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament which have been consistently pursued by the international community ever since the first atomic bomb was exploded. Indonesia deeply regrets this development.

Indonesia recognizes the right of every country to determine its own national security interests and the ways to protect those interests. However, as a country which believes in the principles and objectives of a nuclear-free world, we are of the view that wisdom dictates that national security policy be carried out without the use of nuclear weapons.

Jakarta, 29 May 1998